



City of Blairsville, GA
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
November 9, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.
Blairsville City Hall
62 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville, GA 30512

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Jim Conley
Councilmember Rhonda Mahan
Councilmember Robert Moore
Councilmember Tony Dyer
Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook
Councilmember Kayla Hemphill

STAFF PRESENT:

Kaye McCann, City Clerk
Michael Baxter, Police Dept

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Barrett, City Attorney
Mark Smith, North Georgia News
Steve Rowe, BUCCC President
David Dyer, UC Fire Chief
Mitch Griggs, UC Development Authority
Ashley Davis, Vickie Brackett, Kamryn Mull
Tucker Loyd, Katie Walker
Heather Welch, Diana Lee, Ricky Rich
Laurie Brothers, Cindy Vandereedt, Frank Pack
David McCann, Tara McCann, Carol Krone

Mayor Conley administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilmember Kayla Hemphill.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation was led by City Attorney David Barrett and pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Robert Moore.

Call Meeting to Order: Mayor Conley called the meeting to order 6:03 p.m.

Approve Proposed Agenda: Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve the proposed agenda.

Dispense reading and approve minutes:

1. Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to dispense reading of and approve minutes from the 10/5/2021 regular council meeting.

Public Hearing:

2. Mayor Conley called public hearing and 2nd reading of Ordinance No. 2021-03 to adopt the 2022 Operating Budget. Ms. Brothers requested a copy of the ordinance. With no further public comment and no comment from the Council Mayor Conley closed public hearing. Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-03.

Public Comments:

3. Laurie Brothers stated her concern regarding misinformation about COVID and the COVID vaccines and protested the signage at City Hall provided by the Department of Public Health regarding vaccinations.
4. Ms. Vandereedt requested information on the number of employees that have received the COVID vaccine incentive pay and the dollar amount, information on the COVID related grants the city has received, and asked about providing incentive to city residents for COVID vaccinations.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

New Business:

5. Steve Rowe, BUCCC President, reported upcoming events for November and December, including Veterans Day Service at the Community Center on 11/11; Non-Profit Board Training on 11/16; and Holly Jolly Christmas on 12/4.

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6. Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve Resolution R2021-08 to accept GDOT contract for ARPA Funding associated with Blairsville Municipal Airport.
7. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Airport Consultant Mater Agreement for 2021-2026 with Croy Engineering contingent completion of the changes provided by GDOT.
8. After discussion about 2021 delinquent business license, motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to approve the 2022 Occupational Tax Certificate renewal packet with the exception of the business that is delinquent for 2021.
9. Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with Councilmembers Mahan, Hemphill, Cook and Moore voting yes and Councilmember Dyer voting no to approve Municode's proposal for ordinance codification services.
10. Mayor Conley reported City Attorney David Barrett is retiring in January. Mayor Conley has contacted Kevin Tallant, City Attorney for Dawsonville, Gainesville and Cumming. He is available on the 4th Monday or Tuesday of the month and on any Wednesday of the month. Current hourly rate for government entities is \$255/hour + travel. City Attorney services will be tabled until next meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to approve the following consent agenda items:

11. Sign Permit - North Georgia Technical College; 38 Blalock Street; Jaymarz Signs & Graf-X, applicant - replace existing sign
12. Sign Permit - North Georgia Technical College; 303 Hunt Martin Street; Jaymarz Signs & Graf-X, applicant - replace existing sign
13. Sign Permit - Vincent's Copper Top Restaurant & Pub; 130 Blue Ridge Street; Ted Bliss, Owner - new sign
14. Occupational Tax Certificate - Optimal Hearing Systems; 281C Young Harris Street; Nicholas Pitt, applicant - hearing aid sales and service

Executive Session:

15. Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a roll call - Councilmember Rhonda Mahan-here; Councilmember Kayla Hemphill-here; Councilmember Tony Dyer-here; Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook-here; Councilmember Robert Moore-here - to enter executive session for matters related to personnel. 6:54 pm
16. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a roll call - Councilmember Rhonda Mahan-here; Councilmember Kayla Hemphill-here; Councilmember Tony Dyer-here; Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook-here; Councilmember Robert Moore-here - to exit executive session. 7:08 pm
Exhibit A

Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve reinstatement of Joan Mannheim as accounting clerk.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to adjourn. 7:12 pm

Kaye McCann, City Clerk

12/7/2021

Approved by City Council